

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /130 W
-----120264 260125Z /72

O R 252355Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7440
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, FJ, XP
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

NEW ZEALAND HICOM PASSED TO CHARGE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE DATED
25 MAY FROM PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TO MAHE TUPOUNIUA, DIR-
ECTOR OF SPEC:

"DEAR MAHE,
YOU HAVE SOUGHT MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH
HAVE ARISEN IN NEGOTIATION TOWARDS THE SOUTH PACIFIC
REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION AGREED UPON AT THE PORT
MORESBY FORUM. NEW ZEALAND REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION BASED ON THE
PORT MORESBY DECLARATION BUT WE BELIEVE THAT AN ORGANISATION WHICH
DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL COASTAL STATES IN THE REGION WILL BE
INEFFECTIVE. WE THEREFORE CONSIDER THAT THE FORUM COUNTRIES SHOULD
CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF DRAFTING A
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CONVENTION WITH UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION. I RECENTLY TOOK
THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO
REGISTER OUR CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REACH AN
ACCOMMODATION WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE THAT
THERE HAS BEEN MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES' POSITION. ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE FISHERIES AGENCY REMAINS A HIGH PRIORITY
FOR MY GOVERNMENT AND IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE MEETING PLANNED

FOR JUNE IN SUVA PROCEED IF MOMENTUM IS NOT TO BE LOST.

ON BALANCE WE HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER THE DRAFT FORMULA FOR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL STATES WITH COASTAL STATES INTERESTS. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APARALLEL BUT SEPARATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. HIGHLY MIGRATORY TUNA WILL BE THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE FISHERIES AGENCY AND AS SUCH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH INSIDE THE MAIN AGENCY ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A TWO TIER STRUCTURE WITHIN THE AGENCY.

WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT ARTICLE XII OF THE PRESENT DRAFT CONVENTION GIVES REGULATORY POWERS TO THE ORGANISATION. ON THE CONTRARY IT GIVES A VETO TO EACH STATE. WE AGREE THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN POWERS TO OVERRIDE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF ANY MEMBER STATE. THE PRESENT ARTICLE IS BASED ON SIMILAR PROVISIONS IN MANY OTHER CONVENTIONS NONE OF WHICH ARE REGARDED AS DETRACTING FROM MEMBERS' SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

IF YOU SHOULD CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO CONVENE A MEETING AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL PRIOR TO THE 5 JUNE MEETING IN SUVA IN ORDER TO SEEK A COMMON POSITION AMONG FORUM COUNTRIES, I WOULD ENSURE THAT NEW ZEALAND IS REPRESENTED. ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN HAND FOR A MINISTER TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS OF WESTERN SAMOA IN APIA ON 1 AND 2 JUNE AND I AGREE THAT A MEETING IN APIA AT THAT TIME COULD BE APPROPRIATE PROVIDED THE WESTERN SAMOAN AUTHORITIES CONCUR.

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YOURS SINCERELY,
R.D. MULDOON"

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Message Attributes

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